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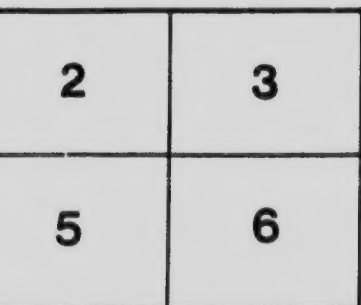
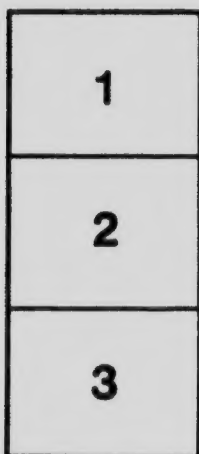
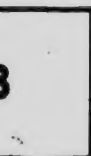
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THE FARM FLOCK

BY

GEO. ROBERTSON.

Poultry Husbandman.

It is but a comparatively short time since farmers regarded the keeping of fowl as something beneath their notice. Such fowls as were allowed on the premises were looked after by the women of the house when they could get time, or were not looked after at all, roosting any place around the out-buildings or where they could get the best shelter and often going hungry in the winter, simply because the farmer regarded as wasted the food they consumed.

Now, owing to the high prices paid for new laid eggs and high class poultry, and the fact that it is possible to get cash for these products instead of store trade, many farmers have turned their attention to the one-time despised hen. Opinion has so changed that the poultry work is now regarded as the most profitable on the farm.

Every farm should have its flock of fowl, the size will depend on conditions and the individual taste of the owner. One hundred may be regarded as suitable for ordinary conditions and these should be as well housed and as carefully tended as any other live stock on the farm.

The Manager.—It will be found that where some one person is placed in charge of the flock better results will be obtained. An able-bodied boy or girl if given some share of the profits as an incentive, will, with a little guidance, usually make an ideal manager and it will also help to interest them in farm work.

One hundred hens properly housed and provided with labour-saving devices will entail but very little extra help and can in almost all instances be attended to without drawing very much on the energy of the existing help.

It is confidently claimed by some successful dairy and poultry men that the time necessary to look after 100 hens is equivalent to that which should be devoted to the proper attention of one cow.

It is for the farmer himself to decide whether or not he should allow an opportunity of this kind to be neglected.

To-day a flock of 100 hens should, without any great effort, return a profit over cost of feed of something like \$300 per year. This is an item worth while when the small capital outlay is considered.

DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS

E. S. ARCHIBALD, B.A., B.S.A.
Director.

F. C. ELFORD,
Dominion Poultry Husbandman.

EXHIBITION CIRCULAR No. 12.

(Revised September, 1920, by W. T. Scott.)

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New Stock.—One of the following methods can be adopted for re-stocking if after culling there are sufficient good specimens left for breeders.

Procure a good vigorous male from a well known laying strain and mate him up in the spring.

If trap nests are used, hatch only those eggs that are laid by the best winter producers.

If new stock has to be purchased, well matured pullets that will begin to lay in November or December, will pay a good profit over their initial cost and make good breeders in the spring if mated to a good male.

Or, hatching eggs or day old chicks from a good laying strain may be purchased in the spring.

The Flock.—It is not advisable to keep hens of the heavy types after they are two years old except in cases where individuals have proven to be of special value as breeders. Pullets are much easier to keep in laying condition, and will produce more eggs than hens, so that it is advisable to raise enough early chicks each year to renew at least half the flock. As fifty per cent of the chicks raised will be cockerels, it may readily be seen that allowing for culling it will be necessary to raise more than twice the number of chicks as pullets required. Purchase or hatch the chicks early in the season, as early chicks mean well developed pullets in the fall, and well developed pullets, properly handled, mean winter eggs. It is the winter egg production that will to a large extent determine the profit on the season's work. If, with this opportunity in view, an increase in the size of the present flock is contemplated to, say, 100 layers, the first consideration is the house to place them in, if this has not already been provided.

The straw loft 16 by 32 type will be found very satisfactory in almost any locality and it adapts itself very conveniently to two pens for 50 pullets and 50 hens. If desired it can at any time be extended to accommodate more.

It is essential for the best results that only good, pure bred, vigorous laying stock be kept and as the cost of feed and labour is no more on a flock of good fowl than it is on a poor flock, procure the best stock that is available.

Scrupulously cull from the existing flock all birds that can be recognized as poor producers and those that are not pure bred. Replace them with good specimens of a proved utility type.

Kind to keep.—The question is frequently asked what is the best kind. The best kind for any individual, is the kind best suited to his conditions, but whatever variety is decided on, keep it pure so as to have uniformity in products. Under special conditions where eggs are to be the chief product, it may be advisable to keep one of the lighter breeds such as the Leghorns, but for ordinary farm use one of the "general purpose" breeds such as the Rocks or Wyandottes will give the best results, as they will give good returns in both eggs and market poultry.

Keeping accounts.—If a fairly accurate account is kept of the expenditure and returns from the flock it will often prove a revelation. Give the hens all the credit they deserve. If eggs or poultry are used in the house in place of high priced meats, they are giving a profit just as surely as if the produce is taken to market or traded at the store.

(Publications sent free on application to the Poultry Division, Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Circulars.—Natural Incubation, Artificial Incubation, Farm Poultry House, Brooding and Rearing of Chicks, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys, Preservation of Eggs, Trap Nests, Mites. *Bulletins.*—Poultry House Construction, Preparing Poultry Produce for Market, Poultry Keeping in Town and Country, Feeds and Feeding. *Calendar.*—Twelve Months in the Poultry Yard.)

By keeping a monthly account it is possible to see just what the hens are paying you. For this purpose blank forms similar to the one shown on page 4 are supplied free upon application to the Poultry Division.

By filling a bin in the hen house with grain once a month and providing a good sized dry mash hopper, the trouble of keeping account of the feed is reduced to a minimum. It needs no great effort to record the daily egg yield on the same sheet with the amount of feed deposited in the bin and mash hopper. Keeping an account of expenditure and daily yield will make the work far more interesting and is a great incentive to better production.

Feeding.—To secure the best results in feeding it is necessary to separate the hens from the pullets. Feed that will give good results with pullets will make the old hens too fat. There are many methods of feeding and each individual must decide for himself just what plan he will follow. The old-fashioned method was to feed moist mash, but of late owing to the high price of labour, poultrymen, seeking for methods that would reduce cost of production, have found that the dry food system gives good results and have very largely adopted it. In this system the ground grains are mixed, just as they would be in making the old-style mash, but instead of wetting enough for each feeding, a quantity of the mixture sufficient to last some time is placed in a hopper, where the hens can have free access to it; or, a hopper can be made with a hinged cover, so that it may be opened or closed at will. The whole grain is fed in the litter as under the old system. Provided the requirements are supplied the simpler the method of feeding the better. Pure water should be accessible at all times, sound grains in variety, meat in some form, green food and grit. Sour milk can be had on most farms and nothing gives better results for either raising chicks or feeding the layers. When the fowl are in confined quarters, feed them so that they will be eager for the grain feed, which should be thrown in a deep litter so as to keep them busy.

If milk is not to be had, it will be necessary to feed one-half ounce green cut bone per head per day or one of the commercial meat foods.

The mash may consist of bran, cornmeal and middlings, equal parts with ten per cent of whole ration of beef scrap added or about twenty per cent of mash ration.

Marketing.—No matter how successfully production is managed the profit will to a great extent depend on the marketing. The ideal method is where the producer can sell direct to the consumer; if it is impossible on account of location to do this, aim to market so as to have as few middlemen as possible. If you are not situated close to a good retail market, probably the co-operative egg circle method will be best. But under any system, care should be taken to market only high-class products. If you are shipping to a circle send nothing but strictly new laid eggs of good size and colour. If you have any eggs that are small or of uncertain age keep them at home for cooking, as the marketing of them will spoil your reputation and the price for your good eggs. If you are supplying private trade it will aid you to better prices if they are put up in neat cartons on which is printed your name and other information that may be thought advisable. The same care should be taken in marketing table poultry; see that it is properly fleshed, and if sold dead that it is neatly dressed.

Endeavour to make every month of the year a selling month. Sell the surplus cockerels from your early hatchings for broilers when the price is high rather than hold them till fall and sell at a lower price as roasters. As soon as the breeding season is over sell off the old hens; they will fill a gap between the time the broilers have finished and the time the roasters are ready. They will bring much better prices than if held until the fall and they will not crowd the market at the time the roasters are being sold thus avoiding the glut and low prices at that time of the year.

Name.....

FARM, EGG AND POULTRY ACCOUNT

Breed.....

Address.....

Copies free to those who return duplicate each month to the

No. of matured females.....

Province.....

Poultry Division, Experimental Farm, Ottawa

Month..... 19...

RECEIPTS								EXPENDITURES				REMARKS				
Date of month	Eggs laid	Eggs sold, eaten or used for hatching	Price per doz.	\$	T-Val Value	Poultry sold or eaten	Price per head or per lb.	\$	Total Value	Weight and kind of feed purchased or taken from farm	\$	Value	Eggs for hatching, Stock and appliances purchased	\$	Value	In this column note number of chicks alive at end of month, also water fowl and turkeys, if any
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29.....																
30.....																Total receipts.....\$
31.....																" Expenditure.....\$
Total																Profit and loss ..\$

Use the back of this form for correspondence, if necessary—Mark envelope O.H.M.S.—No stamps required.

This form, in convenient size to hang in poultry house, is supplied free on application, with monthly hints on feeding and care of flock.



